From:	Janice Brodman
To:	City Council
Cc:	City Council
Subject:	Council"s potential consideration of BDS against Israel
Date:	Wednesday, April 25, 2018 8:51:37 PM

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I am a longtime resident of Cambridge, temporarily staying in Arlington. I am writing to express my concern that the Cambridge City Council will be considering a resolution that includes BDS action against Israel. I hope the Council will remove the section of the resolution that includes Israel.

Like many disputes today, the opponents feel passionately and want to win – sometimes regardless of the truth. It's up to us who care strongly but also care about truth, peace and fairness to stand strong and do what's right, and not give into the seduction of feeling virtuous at the truth and fairness' expense.

The BDS is an extremely bad action for Cambridge for many reasons. Most importantly, it is both unfair and detrimental to peace. First, regarding fairness. As is clear from even a cursory review of the past 70 years, there have been destructive and regrettable actions on both sides. However, the Israeli government explicitly states a desire for peace; in contrast, Hamas and other Palestinian leaders continue to state their determination to destroy Israel. Many Palestinian leaders have moved beyond words to support terrorist actions against civilians of all ages, and never expressed regret for the deaths or any intention of living peacefully beside Israel.

Furthermore, if Cambridge wants to be fair in taking BDS action against governments and leaders who they feel are violent against their own people or others, Cambridge must take that action against all companies that deal with many governments and leaders, including those of:

- The People's Republic of China, which has systematically silenced/imprisoned or killed those who question its authority or decisions (Human Rights Watch); and are destroying the Tibetan culture and killing many of its people

- Russia, which has supported a brutal dictator in Syria who uses chemical weapons on his own people

- Egypt, which carries out clearly and grossly unfair trials, tortures detainees, and enables violence against minorities

- Saudi Arabia, which prosecutes civil rights defenders

- West Bank and Gaza, where anti-Semitism is almost universal (93% of the sample population answered "probably true" to anti-Semitic stereotypes).

- Poland, where the Senate criminalized any statements – by Poles or foreigners – who ascribe responsibility to the Polish nation or state for crimes committed by the Nazis; and where anti—Jewish propaganda and online hate speech is growing worse, including in state media

Regarding the resolution's negative impact on the peace process: the BDS movement overtly aims to undermine, and ultimately destroy Israel. For that, among other reasons, many US leaders who have been involved in the Middle East and efforts to establish peace have voiced their strong opposition to BDS action because it undermines the peace process. These leaders include Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Joe Kennedy, Duval Patrick, and others.

If the Council wants to support peace and a two-state solution, it is imperative that the Council either remove the BDS resolution or vote against it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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